

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/618,771

Examiner

Terrence R. Willoughby

Applicant(s)

BARLAGE ET AL.

Art Unit

2836

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 7/24/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-18.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
2. Regarding claims 1-18, Schmidt et al. (US 6,594,133) discloses a surge arrester (Fig. 1) comprising an axially symmetrically formed apparatus housing (10) with a housing axis running in the plugging direction, a flange (17) for fastening the apparatus housing on a housing of a high-voltage installation (col. 2, ll. 16-19); an axially symmetrical active part (abstract, ll. 4-5) with an axially routed circuit (abstract, ll. 14), including a plug-in contact (5), a grounding terminal (6) and a non-linear resistance (9) connected in between; and an axially symmetrical insulator (13), which forms an insulating cone and surrounds the non-linear resistance element and an electrical connection with respect to the plug-in contact (5), wherein the flange (17) displaceably arranged on an end section (14) of the housing, and can be displaced against a spring (18), which is arranged between an expanded area (16) of the section (14) and the flange ((17) and col. 3, ll. 62-67).

Greuter et al. (US 6,678,139) discloses a high voltage lead-through bushing (Fig. 7(a)) in the form of a cable plug connection comprising an mating plug-in contact and a mating insulating cone, in which installation (col. 6, ll. 62-65), after plugging together, the fastening means of the installation housing and fastening means of the electrical apparatus are rigidly connected and the insulating cone and the mating insulating cone (18 and 5) are pressed against each other.

Rudy (US 5,684,665) discloses a modular electrical assembly with conductive strips comprising opening formed into a lateral surface of the apparatus housing (col. 1, ll. 45-48).

Richter et al. (US 2001/0019471) discloses a surge arrester (Fig. 1) comprising a arrester housing which is in two parts (1,2) with an axially symmetrical insulator and two electrical connections (16,17) which are routed out of the arrester housing, and a varistor (12) arranged in the housing. When the surge arrester is in the operating state, the apparatus firstly rests at the edge, by means of a flange, on the electrical power transmission element (8) of the electrical power interrupter.

However, all of the prior art references mentioned does not disclose an integral flange fixed at an end of the apparatus housing, the apparatus housing being electrically conductive, and wherein the active part is mounted displaceably in the axial direction in the apparatus housing.

As a result for claims 1-18 the allowability resides, at least in part, in the above-described limitations, and in combination with other limitations recited in the claims, which has not been disclosed in or rendered obvious by the prior art.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

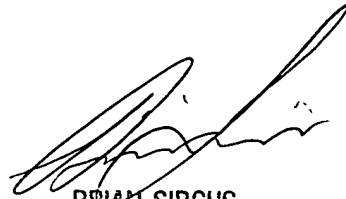
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Terrence R. Willoughby whose telephone number is 571-272-2725. The examiner can normally be reached on 8-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Sircus can be reached on 571-272-2800 ext. 36. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

TRW
8/4/06



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